

# forward

Fluor Daniel Fernald

inside:

- ◆ Communications Center keeps us safe
- ◆ 1 million safe work hours
- ◆ Cleanup progress
- ◆ Fernald celebrates Black History Month



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Surveillance cameras are mounted throughout the site to ensure team member's safety.

Monitoring these cameras is one of the many tasks performed by Bob Fletcher (standing) and Tim Johnson.

Both experienced professionals, Fletcher and Johnson round out the Communications Center staff (6832D-012).



Within a span of five minutes, three different phones ring, the Honeywell System alarms, a Utility Engineer calls on the radio and Ross Township requests the assistance of the Fernald Fire Department. If you are not familiar with how the Communications Center operates, you might think all this activity is overwhelming. You'd be right. However, if you're one of the highly-trained professionals who works in the Communications Center, you'd have it all under control and be ready for whatever's next.

## Only a phone call away

"Some days it's like one long adrenaline rush," said Marlene McCowan, who has worked in the Security Department and Communications Center for almost 20 years. "A lot of people couldn't do this job. Every time

that phone rings or an alarm sounds there's somebody there who needs my help. This is a very important job, and I take pride in doing it well."

The Communications Center, a windowless room located in the basement of the Safety and Health Building, is staffed 24 hours a day, every day. The team members who work in the center dispatch our Emergency Response Team, respond to requests for

mutual aid from neighboring townships, monitor the Honeywell system, maintain several logbooks and answer all site emergency calls. "We're like the site's 911 operators," explained Denny Patrick, who has worked in the Security Department and Communications Center for 13 years. "Even when we have fifty different things going on it's important for us to stay calm. There are so many people counting on us we can't afford to make mistakes."

"The hardest part of my job is when we have to send the squad out for somebody I know," McCowan said. "After 20 years here, a lot of these people are like family to me. Sometimes I just want to run out of this room and go help, but I know I have to stay here and concentrate on what I'm doing because other people need me, too."

According to Brenda Troxel, who's been at Fernald for 15 years, working in the Communications Center requires an incredible amount of teamwork, even though a good deal of their time is spent working alone. "We work very closely with each other, the Fire and Safety group and the AEDOs," she said. "I can't imagine working with a better group of people. I know that no matter what I need, or what time of the day or night it is, they will always be here for me." Kind of like how we know the Communications Center staff will always be there for us.

**On the cover:** The majority of the surface soil currently located in the Southern Waste Units will eventually be placed in the On-Site Disposal Facility. Radiological control technicians carefully monitor the soil to ensure the material meets the waste acceptance criteria for disposition in the cell (6734D-320).



# Information Management makes the move



*Leroy Abirached works his way through a maze of wires while Sheila Sizemore looks on (6832D-005).*

How does Information Management (IM) spell success? C-O-M-P-U-T-E-R; that is, commitment, organization, motivation, planning, understanding, teamwork, effort and results. It took all of these qualities for the IM team to successfully relocate computer equipment to the new Springdale building. "Relocating the computer room to the new office site was a demonstration of teamwork at its best," said Jack Gibson, IM team coach. "Team members from several different groups worked incredibly long hours to move enough computer equipment to fill a semi tractor trailer."

From the preliminary planning, ordering of materials and hiring special movers to final installation of computers in the new building, the task was tremendous.

Because the move was handled so efficiently, it was virtually unnoticed by team members. "Our primary objectives going in to this project were to move the equipment without any damage or data losses and minimize the amount of user downtime," Gibson said. "In both cases, we exceeded our expectations." In fact, site computer users experienced no interruption in their computer service. All in all, the move was a success for IM and a plus for all Fernald computer users.

## 1 Million and counting

Fernald team members reached 1 million safe work hours on Feb. 12, 1998. This achievement is especially significant because of the challenging activities currently being completed. "The level of activity is as high or higher than it was during production days," said Dave Kozlowski, DOE-Fernald's associate director for safety and assessment. "This is a positive indicator and shows significant progress. It's a sign of the team members' attention to safety and their working conditions." The site's subcontractors have also demonstrated their commitment to safety by working for more than five years without a lost-time accident. "This is only the beginning," said John Bradburne, Fluor Daniel Fernald president. "Our goal for 1998 is to reach 3.9 million safe work hours, and I am confident the team we have assembled here can make that happen."

*By completing difficult work safely, Safe Shutdown personnel played a big role in helping the site achieve 1 million safe hours (6383-413).*





Top: As part of the Shandon Yard Upgrade, CSXT laborers replaced railroad ties (6803D-024).

Bottom: Using non-destructive assay equipment helped Safe Shutdown personnel pinpoint the location of holdup material, saving the group considerable time and money (6681-79D).

### Waste Pits Remedial Action Project

- Continued Shandon Yard and on-site rail infrastructure upgrades.
- Continued review of IT Corporation's pre-mobilization contract deliverables.
- Awarded contract for construction of rail and access road lighting.

### On-Site Disposal Facility

- Began construction of On-Site Disposal Facility Material Transfer Area and Decontamination Facility.
- Performed regular inspections of seasonal cover; no maintenance required this month.
- Continued review of contractor proposals for OSDF Phase II/Southern Waste Units excavation contract.

### Facilities Closure & Demolition Project

#### Safe Shutdown —

- Completed holdup removal in Plant 8 which included removing approximately 5,840 pounds of contaminated sludge from a sump on the East Pad. This material had to be removed one 2-gallon bucket at a time which equates to 1,460 buckets full of material. Juan Barnett, Todd Bradbury, Dave Smith and Randall Wieser completed this difficult work safely. Mike Fehr was the supervisor on the job. Safe Shutdown in Plant 8 should be complete by the end of the month.

#### Decontamination and Dismantlement—

- Removed the remainder of the windows from the Boiler Plant and began demolition of the coal handling area.
- Continued friable asbestos abatement, equipment removal and interior demolition in the Thorium/Plant 9 Complex.
- Submitted *Maintenance/Tank Farm Complex Implementation Plan* to regulatory agencies.

### Silos Projects

- Issued *Request for Proposal (RFP)* for Silos 1 & 2 Proof of Principle Testing
- Received DOE-OH approval of *Final Silo 3 Explanation of Significant Differences* and submitted document to U.S. EPA for signature.
- Revised *Silo 3 Draft RFP* to incorporate off-site treatment; initiated internal review.
- Continued System Operability/Mock-Up Testing of Silo 3 Small Scale Waste Retrieval at Silo 4.



## ■ Aquifer Restoration & Wastewater Project

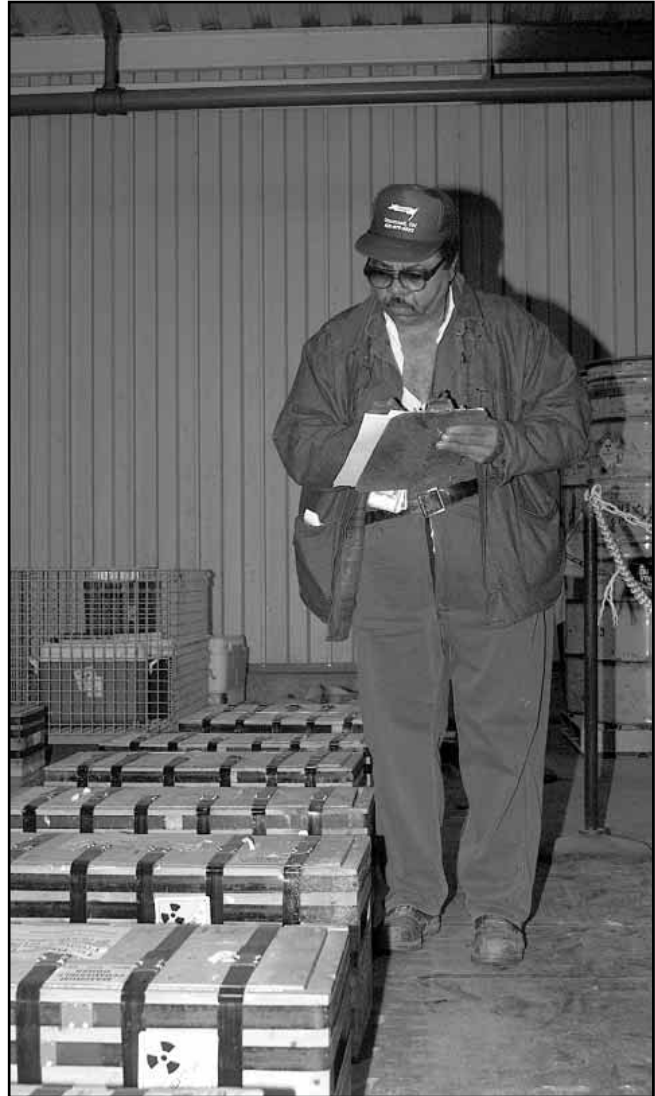
- Completed Construction Acceptance Testing, System Operability Testing and Standard Startup Review on Advanced Wastewater Treatment Resin Regeneration System.
- Started pipeline installation for South Plume Optimization Project.

## ■ Soil Characterization & Excavation Project

- Completed field activities for Phase II of Paddy's Run Embankment Stabilization Project.
- Pre-certification soil remediation activities were completed during the month of February in a 13-acre area west of Paddy's Run Road. The following team members were instrumental in that effort: Mike Brandes, Lee Clark, Mike Heinen, Tom Heitfield, Roger Knight, Eric Kroger, Brian McDaniel, Dan Ratliff, Dale Seiller, Jerry Smith and Darren Wessel.

## ■ Waste Management/Nuclear Materials Disposition Projects

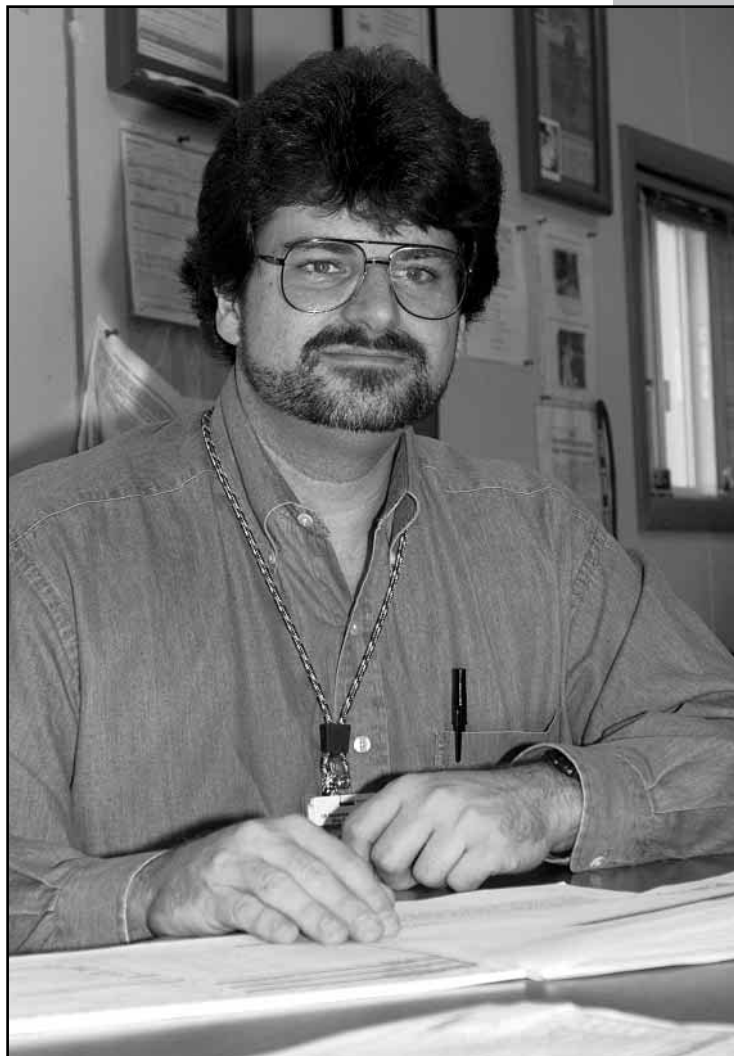
- Neutralization/Precipitation/Deactivation/Stabilization Project — Neutralized 47 drums during February; total of 724 drums treated.
- Nuclear Materials Disposition Operations — Continued packaging and shipment of metal in support of contract for sale of low enriched uranium materials; total of 15 truckloads shipped as of Feb. 27, 1998.
- T-Hopper Repackaging System — Began operations on Feb. 17, 1998; packaged total of 11 drums of uranium oxide.



*Above: Darnell "Cleveland" Bailey inspects packaged ingots in Plant 6 prior to shipment (6826-13D).*

*Left: Paddy's Run Stabilization Project at completion (6690-47).*





## *A balanced approach*

When Todd Clark came to Fernald after graduating from college in 1984, he thought it was a pretty good place to work. Thirteen years and many different responsibilities haven't changed his opinion. "I enjoy my work here," he said. "I like helping to develop concepts that guide overall projects."

After providing technical support to the Operations Department for several years when the plant was in production, Clark helped form the Technology Demonstration Department. He then moved on to Operable Unit 3 (OU3) where he was instrumental in coordinating the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study and the development of the two Records of Decision (ROD) for that group. "We submitted the first ROD for the site which was a huge accomplishment," he said. "We saved several hundred million dollars for the project because we were able to accelerate the schedule and determined that much of the waste can be safely placed in the On-Site Disposal Facility."

Clark is now working in Waste Management as the group's strategic planning coordinator. "This is a great job for me because I'm able to look at the big picture and address integration issues between Waste Management and our customer divisions," he said. "We're developing an integrated waste management plan for the site that I think will help move this whole cleanup project forward."

Waste Management is spearheading many improvement initiatives, including an effort to ensure each project has adequately planned for their project's waste disposal responsibilities. "Using a balanced approach to waste management, we're helping project managers include waste shipping and disposal in their planning," Clark said. "The balanced approach involves shipping low-volume, higher contaminated waste off site and disposing of high-volume, low-contamination material on site."

These high-priority tasks could keep Clark at work "every hour of every day," but he tries to limit himself to no more than 50 hours per week. "I have three kids and I want to make sure I'm around to see them grow up," he said. "It's my own balanced approach to life."

*"This is a great job for me because I'm able to look at the big picture and address integration issues between Waste Management and our customer divisions."*

*Above left: Todd Clark is proud to be part of Waste Management's progress (6832-037).*

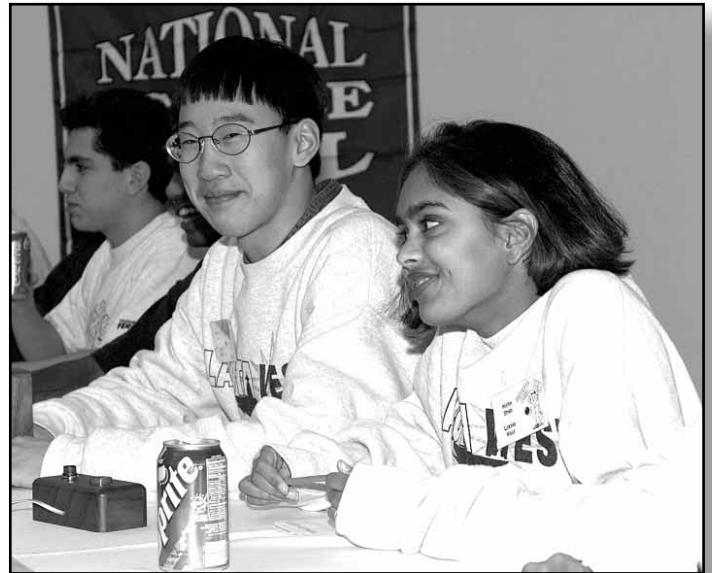
## *Sycamore Claims Regional Science Bowl Title*

What is the trade name of the substance which is a polymer of tetrafluorethylene? Give up? The answer is Teflon. This is just one example of the many tough questions asked at last month's seventh annual Greater Cincinnati Regional Science Bowl sponsored by the Department of Energy and Fluor Daniel Fernald.

Teams from 24 area high schools tested their knowledge by responding to questions about mathematics, chemistry, computer science, astronomy, biology and earth science. Volunteers from DOE and Fluor Daniel Fernald served as moderators, co-moderators, runners and time and score keepers.

This year's winner was Sycamore High School. "My role was to be there to support the kids and take care of the paperwork. It was the team that did all of the work," said coach Jim Smanik, a science teacher at the high school. "We came to play because we love to compete, and of course, it's fun to end up winning."

The Sycamore team, which included David Bender, Jonah Knobler, Kevin Lacher and Blake Scholl, defeated 23 other local teams to become the 1998 regional champion. In May, the team will travel to Washington, D.C. for the National Science Bowl® and compete against 60 regional winners from other DOE sites.



*Above: Although they didn't win the title, the students from Lakota West High School made it to the finals and gave Sycamore quite a match (6818-10D).*

## *Fernald celebrates Black History Month*



*Above: Students from the Marva Collins School thrilled a packed Services Building conference room audience with their stirring rendition of Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech (6824-9D).*

"It is a month to celebrate not only African-American history but all American history," said Nelson Harrison, Fluor Daniel Fernald team member and emcee for the site's final celebration of Black History Month. And what a celebration it was.

Team members of all ethnic and cultural backgrounds gathered to recognize Black History Month. Activities included taste-testing ethnic cuisine, readings about black history and a play, *Imaginary Meeting*, about a fictitious conversation between Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr.

Fernald's celebration of Black History Month ended with an inspirational recitation of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech by students from the Marva Collins School. Rhonda Smith, a pipefitter at Fernald, told stories of the struggles of slaves and their quest for freedom. Team members were uplifted by the spiritual songs of the Fernald Choir and were soothed by the contemporary jazz sounds of Sheila & Renee & Co.

Thanks to these celebrations planned by the Diversity Council, we are all given an opportunity to experience the spirit of black heritage and culture.





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*Together, DOE and Fluor Daniel Fernald are committed to safely restoring the Fernald site to an end state which serves the communities' needs within a decade.*